

# Tips to Increase 4th DTaP Rates

Parents need to hear from you about the importance of the 4th DTaP dose, which is often missed. **When you speak, parents listen.** Pertussis rates in Washington State are significantly higher than the national average. Many children in your practice may be at risk if they don't receive the 4th DTaP on time. **Make sure your patients get the 4th DTaP dose at 15-18 months.**

Use these tips to ensure children receive all five DTaP doses:

- **Recommend vaccination even when a child has a mild illness, such as a cold, diarrhea or an ear infection.**
- **Remember: it is safe to give multiple vaccines at every visit.**
- **Review a child's immunization history at every visit, including acute visits.**
- **Record immunizations given in the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry.**
- **Use reminder/recall cards to ensure parents bring children in for each DTaP dose. Use the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry or order free Reminder/Recall Cards (information on back).**
- **Give the 3rd DTaP dose on time. Research shows that children who receive the 3rd dose on time are more likely to receive the 4th dose on time.**
- **Pre-schedule 4th DTaP appointments when children receive their 3rd DTaP, if possible.**
- **Find out your practice's 4th DTaP coverage rates and track them over time. Ask your local health department how they can help you do this.**

# Be part of the solution. Get involved!

Help Washington fight pertussis and increase 4th DTaP immunization rates:

- **Contact** your local health department to:
  - set up an assessment to review your practice's immunization coverage
  - get materials to educate your staff
  - find additional immunization information
- **Visit** the Washington State Department of Health website to:
  - order a free 4th DTaP poster for your office
  - order Reminder/Recall Cards

[www.doh.wag.gov/cfh/immunize/formpubs.htm](http://www.doh.wag.gov/cfh/immunize/formpubs.htm)
- **Join** the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington at [www.withinreachwa.org/iacw](http://www.withinreachwa.org/iacw)

Follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations for DTaP vaccination:



\* The 4th DTaP dose may be given as early as 12 months, if at least six months have passed since the 3rd DTaP dose was given.

## When you speak, parents listen.

Make sure your patients don't miss any DTaP doses.



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